

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS

ALIEN INVADERS

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MOVING FIREWOOD

Photo shows an oak wilt spore mat underneath firewood bark. The fungus could be transferred by insects to living trees.

THE ISSUE

Trees killed by insects or fungi may harbor these organisms for months after the tree has died. Moving infested firewood can introduce pests to new areas. Many forest pests including the fungus that causes oak wilt, the gypsy moth and emerald ash borer have all been transported on firewood.

MANAGEMENT

Don't move firewood for a minimum of one year after a tree has died or until the bark has fallen off. To hasten bark deterioration, stack firewood in a sunny location and cover it with a 4-mil or thicker plastic or tarp. Secure the plastic around the base of the pile to keep emerging insects from escaping. Heat from the sun will deteriorate the bark. Also, don't move firewood that harbors gypsy moth egg masses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your local DNR forest pest specialist.

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Photo: USDA Forest Service,
J. Cummings Carlson

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